

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (Currently pending) A disposable absorbent article having a pair of longitudinally extending side edges and a pair of end edges extending between said side edges, said article comprising;

a topsheet layer;

a backsheet layer;

an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet; and

a pair of end strips, each end strip being fixed, along a longitudinal direction, at a position intermediate said core and one of said end edges and extending between said side edges, said end strip including at least three sections, each said section having an elasticity different from said other sections and a position different from said other sections, including

a first section having generally elastic properties and laterally extending in generally parallel relation with said end edges,

a second section disposed immediately subjacent said first section and extending in generally parallel relation with said first section and with said end edges, said second section being characterized in that said first section is substantially more elastic than said second section, and

a third section positioned immediately subjacent said second section, said third section having an inward portion spaced away from said topsheet and said absorbent core.

Claim 2: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said second section is formed from an elastic material, said second section having at least one void provided therein, said void being adapted to substantially de-elasticize an area of said second section adjacent said void.

Claim 3: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein each of said first and second sections is secured to said topsheet.

Claim 4: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said end strip is formed from an elastic material.

Claim 5: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 4, wherein said second section includes a plurality of voids adapted to substantially de-elasticize said second section.

Claim 6: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said first section forms a waistband portion.

Claim 7: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said first section is fixed along one of said end edges.

Claim 9: (Canceled)

Claim 11: (Canceled)

Claim 14: (Canceled)

Claim 15: (Canceled)

Claim 16: (Canceled)

Claim 17: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said article has a front waist region, a back waist region longitudinally spaced from said front waist region, and a crotch region located between said front waist region and said back waist region, said core being disposed generally in said crotch region, said article further comprising an ear region extending laterally on each side of each of said front waist region and said back waist region, said end strip extending substantially laterally into two of said ear regions.

Claim 76: (Canceled)

Claim 77: (Canceled)

Claim 78: (Canceled)

Claim 79: (Canceled)

Claim 81: (Currently pending) A disposable absorbent article having a pair of longitudinally extending side edges and a pair of end edges extending between said side edges, said article comprising:

a topsheet layer;

a backsheet layer;

an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet; and

a pair of end strips, each said end strip being fixed, along a longitudinal direction, at a position intermediate said core and one of said end edges and extending between said side edges, said end strip including at least three sections, each said section having an elasticity different from said other sections and a position different from said other sections,

a first section having generally elastic properties and laterally extending in generally parallel relation with said end edges, including

a second section immediately subjacent said first section and extending in generally parallel relation therewith, said second section being characterized in that said first section is substantially more elastic than said second section, and

a third section positioned immediately subjacent said second section, said third section having an inward portion spaced away from said topsheet and said absorbent core; and

wherein said first section, said second section, and said third section form the entirety of said end strip.

Claim 86: (Currently pending) The disposable article of claim 4, wherein said said second section is substantially de-elasticized.

Claim 87: (Currently pending) The disposable article of claim 1, wherein said end strip is formed from an elastic material, and

wherein said second section is substantially de-elasticized.

Claim 88: (Currently pending) A disposable absorbent article having a pair of longitudinally extending side edges and a pair of end edges defining a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region, said article comprising:

a topsheet layer;

a backsheet layer;

an absorbent core disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;

an end strip secured to each one of said front and back waist regions, said end strip having a plurality of sections, each said section having generally elastic properties and being positioned differently from said other sections, including,

a fixed waist section fixed along a longitudinal direction, at a position intermediate said core and one of said end edges and laterally extending in generally parallel relation with said end edges, said waist section including an elastic end section disposed adjacent said end edge, and

an elastic inward section disposed longitudinally inward of said fixed waist section and laterally extending in generally parallel relation therewith, said elastic inward section having a central portion spaced upwardly from said topsheet and said absorbent core; and

wherein said fixed waist section further includes an intermediate section disposed between said elastic end section and said elastic inward section, said intermediate section having a plurality of voids provided therein adapted to substantially de-elasticize said intermediate section.

Claim 89: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 88, wherein said elastic inward section is disposed substantially subjacent said fixed waist section.

Claim 90: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 88, wherein said intermediate section is disposed substantially subjacent said fixed waist section.

Claim 91: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 88, wherein said end strip is formed from an elastic material.

Claim 92: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 88, wherein said waist 88 section includes an elastic end section disposed substantially adjacent said end edge to form an elastic waistband on each of said front and back waist regions.

Claim 93: (Currently pending) The disposable absorbent article of claim 88, wherein said fixed waist section and said elastic inward section form the entirety of said end strip.